

## Editorial Reflections: Looking Back on 2020

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Dear *JAIS* Readers,

Let me begin this editorial letter by extending wishes for a happy and fulfilling New Year. As the pandemic continues to unleash its wrath on many innocent bodies, and as businesses and universities continue to operate under highly uncertain and constrained conditions, we can only hope that 2021 will realize societal innovations and adjustments that effectuate a healthier and more stable environment as we go about living our daily lives as best we can. In this opening editorial of 2021, I would like to provide a brief recap of *JAIS* in 2020.

### 2020 Submissions

While many scholars were under great strain in 2020, submissions to *JAIS* were stronger than ever. Between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, *JAIS* received 629 submissions.

Among these 629 submissions, 432 were new submissions, up from 401 in 2019 and 276 in 2018. The editorial philosophy at *JAIS* is to carefully screen papers prior to review and only subject to full review those papers that are deemed to be of high potential to make a strong contribution to IS research. I previously described my thoughts on contribution in a 2020 editorial titled “What’s in a Contribution?” (Leidner, 2020). The flagship journal of the AIS has a duty to publish the highest quality of IS research. Authors, as well as editorial member reviewers, *JAIS* associate editors and *JAIS* senior editors are committed to

developing high-potential papers for publication. Toward this end, it is important that they invest their time in papers with reasonable chances for progression to publication. Therefore, only about half of the new submissions enter into a full review. Please do not be disappointed if your paper is desk rejected. As authors, we are always looking for the right journal fit for each of our papers. In a paper’s trajectory, it is better to receive a quick rejection than one that drags out over multiple revisions across several years.

The remainder of the 629 submissions in 2020 consists of 197 resubmissions of papers that had originally been submitted sometime in the past three years. Some were first-round revised papers whereas others were second- or third-round revisions. Of these, 61 were accepted for publication. The papers accepted in early 2020 were published in a later issue of 2020. The remaining 2020 acceptances will be published in 2021.

### 2020 Reviews

In 2020, 282 papers underwent a review. Each paper typically receives two or three reviews. Across the 282 papers, 603 reviews were completed by 520 unique reviewers coming from 27 countries.<sup>1</sup> Reviewing for any journal is a largely invisible and thankless service. Even though the authors will never know you by name, I create a list of *JAIS* reviewers each year and go through each name. I hope to thank each of you in person sometime at a conference. The editorial team at *JAIS* is very grateful to each of these 520 reviewers.

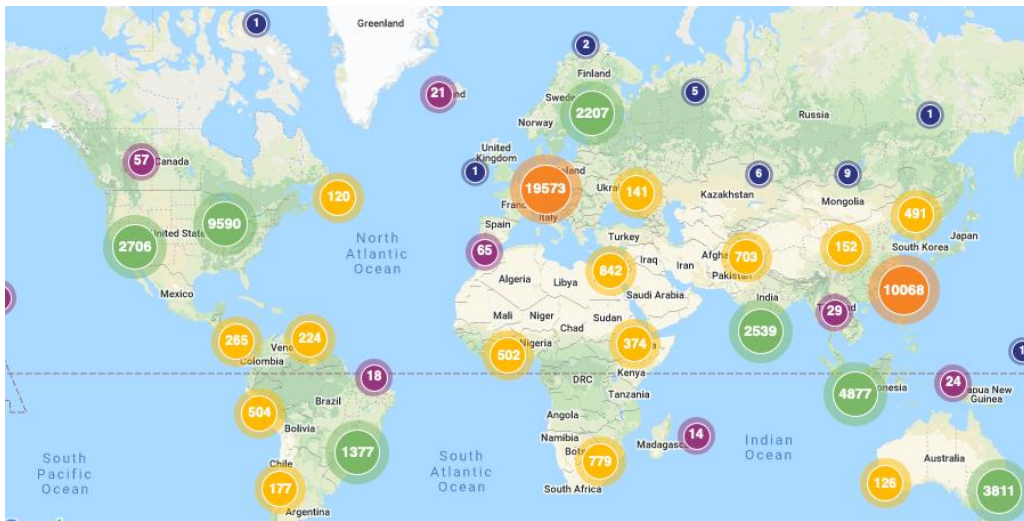
<sup>1</sup> Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Korea (the Republic of), Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New

Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States

Two individuals received *JAIS* Reviewer of the Year awards: Ben Choi from Nanyang Technological University and Christy Cheung from Hong Kong Baptist University. Ben and Christy provided high-quality reviews on 13 and 12 papers, respectively, in 2020. Congratulations to Ben and Christy for their awards and sincere thanks to both of them. We also have 10 new additions to the *JAIS* Reviewer Hall of Fame, comprised of individuals who have reviewed 25 or more times since the journal's inception. The new additions to the Reviewer Hall of Fame are: Daniel Beimborn, Dirk Hovorka, Tina Jensen, Huigang Liang, Nigel Melville, Nirup Menon, Lionel Robert, Shirish Srivastava, Tuure Tuunanen, and Jennifer Xu. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to each of our new Hall of Fame reviewers, who have devoted so much time and effort to the important process of reviewing.

## 2020 Readership

*JAIS* readership reflects the global nature of AIS membership. In 2020, there were a total of 63,995 downloads to *JAIS* papers from 2,325 institutions from all over the globe, as shown in Figure 3. If you look carefully at Figure 3, you will notice a few small digits. The single 1 located near the United Kingdom, for example, is a reader from the Isle of Man. If we look only at the 61 papers published in 2020 (Volume 21), there were 12,610 downloads coming from 677 institutions dispersed across the globe (see Figure 4). *JAIS* readership is largely equal across the three AIS Regions. The top 25 most downloaded papers in 2020 are shown in Figure 5. Note that these are not the most downloaded papers published in 2020 but the most downloaded papers in 2020 across all *JAIS* volumes.



Title	Downloads
<a href="#">Customer Loyalty in E-Commerce</a>	1964
<a href="#">Factors Influencing the Adoption of Internet Banking</a>	927
<a href="#">Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology: A Synthesis and the Road Ahead</a>	762
<a href="#">Governance in the Blockchain Economy: A Framework and Research Agenda</a>	679
<a href="#">The Role of IS Capabilities in the Development of Multi-Sided Platforms: The Digital Ecosystem Strategy of Alibaba.com</a>	673
<a href="#">Big Data Research in Information Systems: Toward an Inclusive Research Agenda</a>	590
<a href="#">Advancing Qualitative IS Research Methodologies: Expanding Horizons and Seeking New Paths</a>	563
<a href="#">The Relative Importance of Perceived Ease of Use in IS Adoption: A Study of E-Commerce Adoption</a>	536
<a href="#">Blockchain Research in Information Systems: Current Trends and an Inclusive Future Research Agenda</a>	502
<a href="#">What's in a Contribution?</a>	496
<a href="#">Research Perspectives: The Rise of Human Machines: How Cognitive Computing Systems Challenge Assumptions of User-System Interaction</a>	473
<a href="#">The Perils and Promises of Big Data Research in Information Systems</a>	449
<a href="#">Business on Chain: A Comparative Case Study of Five Blockchain-Inspired Business Models</a>	413
<a href="#">Design Science Research Contributions: Finding a Balance between Artifact and Theory</a>	395
<a href="#">Designing Business Models and Similar Strategic Objects: The Contribution of IS</a>	371
<a href="#">Online Impulse Buying: Understanding the Interplay between Consumer Impulsiveness and Website Quality</a>	369
<a href="#">Guidelines for Conducting Mixed-methods Research: An Extension and Illustration</a>	365
<a href="#">Privacy in the Sharing Economy</a>	360
<a href="#">Effects of Interactivity on Website Involvement and Purchase Intention</a>	358
<a href="#">Editorial Reflections: Lockdowns, Slow Downs, and Some Introductions</a>	355
<a href="#">Organizational Learning with Crowdsourcing: The Revelatory Case of LEGO</a>	352
<a href="#">Blockchain for the IoT: Privacy-Preserving Protection of Sensor Data</a>	350
<a href="#">Trust In and Adoption of Online Recommendation Agents</a>	345
<a href="#">Is This Review Believable? A Study of Factors Affecting the Credibility of Online Consumer Reviews from an ELM Perspective</a>	341
<a href="#">Business Value of IT: An Essay on Expanding Research Directions to Keep up with the Times</a>	340

Figure 5: Top 25 Most Downloaded JAIS Papers in 2020

## 2020 JAIS Theory Development Workshop

Our annual pre-ICIS Theory Development Workshop was held virtually for the first time. This year's workshop was intended for pure-theory papers, e.g., papers without an actual or planned empirical component. In past years, the workshop had taken on more of a general paper development approach.

The senior editors and I decided that beginning this year and going forward, we will focus the workshop on encouraging the development of pure-theory papers.

There has been great debate about the importance and merits of theory in IS research (e.g., Dennis, 2019; Hirschheim, 2019; Hovorka et al., 2019). The senior editors and I believe strongly in the importance of novel theory development in the IS field. Part of having a unique disciplinary identity is having unique theories emerging from within the discipline. Each year we will invite the submission of abstracts for potential theory papers. The most promising abstracts will be selected for the workshop and, following the workshop, the most promising projects will be nurtured by senior editors with the aim of developing relevant and useful theories of important IS phenomenon

## Editorial Board Transitions

Two senior editors have completed their three-year term: Jack Jiang and Rajiv Sabherwal. Both have brought tremendous expertise and insight to *JAIS*. Rajiv will continue to serve as SE whereas Jack will be taking on the role of Area Head of Innovation and Information Management at Hong Kong University Business School. We will miss Jack but are thrilled that Rajiv will continue. Two new senior editors are beginning terms in January: Lior Fink from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Andrew Hardin from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In addition, six new associate editors are beginning terms this month: Jose Benitez from Rennes School of Business, Roberta Bernardi from the University of Bristol, Christy Cheung from Hong Kong Baptist University, Ben Choi from Nanyang Technological University, Robert (Xin) Luo from the University of New Mexico, and Adrian Yeow Yong Kwang from Singapore University of Social Sciences.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to *JAIS* in 2020 as authors, reviewers, associate editors, senior editors, workshop authors and mentors, special issue editors, managing editors, and readers! I hope you enjoy this first issue of 2021.

Dorothy

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